



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

Social Hour: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE RETURN OF CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY!

Our speaker on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, will be **Mel Stewart Hankla**, a Kentucky original, just like the subject of his talk!

Born and raised in Jamestown, Kentucky, Mel earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Kentucky University. He then earned his doctorate in Education Administration through the cooperative Doctoral Program at the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University.

Mel is the founder of American Historic Services, LLC, where he is a noted collector, researcher, writer, and lecturer on Kentucky's heritage. He is the co-founder and past president of the Contemporary Long Rifle Association and editor of its magazine, *American Tradition*. As a writer and collector, Mel authored the magnificent book, *Into the Bluegrass: Art and Artistry of Kentucky's Historic Icons*.

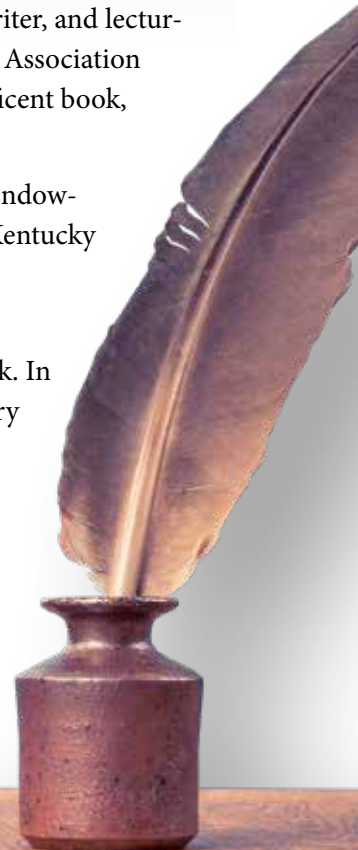
Mel is a builder of traditional Kentucky long rifles; his craftsmanship and skill led to the National Endowment of the Arts awarding to him a Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grant to study under the legendary Kentucky rifle smith, Hershel House.

As a historical actor and educator, Mel worked for 20 years with the Kentucky Humanities Council presenting Chautauqua characters of frontiersmen Simon Kenton and General George Rogers Clark. In 2012 Mel was cast for the leading role in the PBS documentary "An Audacious American: The Story of Kentucky Abolitionist, Cassius Marcellus Clay." It is from his work on that film that we will hear from him on April 9th. Please come and bring a friend. It promises to be a delightful evening.



Mel Stewart Hankla

Kent Masterson Brown
President





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



Wow, what an exciting beginning of the speaker series this year. Our organization has a core membership of about 200 individuals. This is the strength of the Roundtable, and we remain in a profitable position with \$39,000 in current operating funds. As with any organization, growth is key to maintaining quality programs and the expectations of its members. To that, I am asking for a few folks to assist

me in forming a committee to recruit new members and put an emphasis on the retention of present members. There will also be time allocated to additional fundraising ideas outside of yearly fees. Please contact me at Dterry909@aol.com or my cell phone at 859-771-5092. As Uncle Sam's poster says, "WE WANT YOU". Please consider putting in some time and effort to help us maintain and build this fantastic organization. ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



The meeting dates for the September and November 2024 Roundtable meetings have not been set yet. Kent will work on securing the Speakers and coordinating the dates with Embassy Suites over the summer months. As soon as we have the information, we will post it on the website.

In addition to the KCWRT website, the KCWRT has a Facebook page. We are always looking for old photographs and stories to post on the Facebook page. Please send pictures or stories for the Facebook page to A.J. Singleton. His contact information is aj.singleton@skofirm.com. ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! Well, what an exciting presentation we had to kick off the 2024 Season! If you couldn't come to the meeting, don't forget that we post the meetings on the website. As soon as Studio46 lets me know it's uploaded, I'll send out an email to you all and let you know it's ready to view.

A big reminder that our next meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY, April 9th! That means you'll need to RSVP by Wednesday, April 3rd

at 4 PM. I must turn in our meal count at 5 PM that day. RSVP online, call or text me at 859-221-7199, or email me at kcwrt.susie@gmail.com. Our meal selection for the evening will be pot roast. For those of you that might want something different, you might think about the vegetarian option. The chef usually prepares a pasta dish. This past meeting was a delicious ravioli nestled in a tomato and pesto sauce. And, as always, your meal must be paid for before the event. You can pay online with a check or with a credit card. Looking forward to seeing you at the Meeting! ■



EDITOR'S REPORT | GEORGE RIDINGS

April is a noteworthy month for Civil War history. The first shots of the war were fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina on April 12 in 1861, and then the final battles between Grant & Lee's armies in Virginia occurred at Appomattox Station and Courthouse on April 8 & 9, 1865.

Below is some photographic history I thought I'd share.

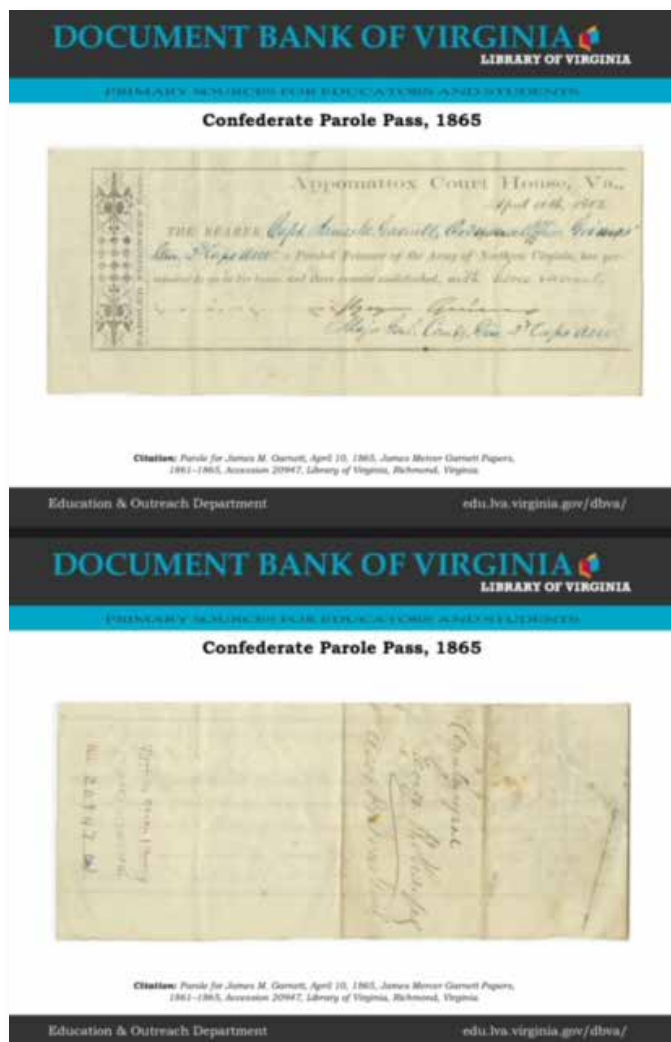
Thirty thousand of these parole passes (see image below) were printed for Lee's soldiers, and then a formal Stacking of Arms Ceremony occurred on April 12.

Two photographs taken at Fort Sumter on April 14, four years apart, are interesting and symbolic summaries of the beginning and ending of "The Late Unpleasantness."

The first, a rare Confederate photo, shows the seven-star version of the Stars and Bars raised inside Fort Sumter on the day of the Federal surrender after they had vacated the property.



The second photograph captures Union General Robert Anderson raising the same flag he took with him in 1861, four years to the day after the Federal departure. (Image sources: Library of Congress.)



6140. Raising the Old Flag over Fort Sumter.

April 14, 1865, (four years from the day the Rebels had compelled Major Anderson to haul down the stars and stripes from the flag-staff at Fort Sumter,) *Major General* Anderson raised the same flag over the ruins of the Fort, now again in possession of the United States. The ceremony was of most intense interest. Charleston Harbor was filled with Uncle Sam's vessels covered with holiday flags. Great crowds thronged Fort Sumter. Henry Ward Beecher delivered the oration. At a given signal, amid booming cannon, and with the bands playing the Star Spangled Banner, Major General Robert Anderson ran up the glorious old flag, and ran it up *to stay*; a perpetual menace to treason from within, or foreign enemies from without. "Long shall it wave."

Major Robert Anderson, who commanded the Federal prison at Fort Sumter during the bombardment and then was the one who surrendered the garrison, was born at the Anderson family home, "Soldier's Retreat," near Louisville, Kentucky. The house still stands off Hurstbourne Lane.

The American Battlefield Trust hosted a Color Bearer weekend in February, and Michael Marx and I were among those in attendance.



I took this picture during the Sumter tour led by author/historians Garry Adelman (holding the same picture above) and Rick Hatcher with Then and Now photos on site.

Enjoy some time of reflection this month through our meeting, your reading, and maybe a visit to a battlefield, cemetery, museum, or join American Battlefield Trust Park Day at many locations across Kentucky and the country (see www.battlefields.org/parkday for all participating locations.)

– George

UPCOMING EVENTS



May Meeting with Mack Cox

authority on early Kentucky furniture and culture, will talk about Lexington's Redd family and their flight from martial law declared in Missouri during the Civil War.



Battle of Richmond Association

Sunday, April 7th, 2:30 PM

Mt Zion Christian Church – 830 Battlefield Memorial Highway, Richmond, KY.

Kentucky Chautauqua presenter Ethan Sullivan performs "Johnny Green: An Orphan's Survival."



Kentucky Historical Society: Diane Mutti Burke: "The Civil War and the Civilian Refugee Crisis in the Border South,"

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

FREE Virtual event via Zoom

The upheaval of the American Civil War forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes. The refugee crisis that resulted surpassed anything Americans had previously experienced, with significant military, political, and social consequences that historians are only now beginning to appreciate. Join us as Diane Mutti Burke, professor of history at the University of Missouri - Kansas City, discusses her research on the refugee issue in the Border South during the war.

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